



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

June 1, 2004

### **S. 1609** **Parental Responsibility Obligations Met through Immigration System** **Enforcement Act**

*As reported by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on May 13, 2004*

CBO estimates that enacting S. 1609 would have no significant impact on the federal budget. The bill could affect direct spending and receipts, but we estimate that the amounts involved would be less than \$500,000 a year. S. 1609 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

S. 1609 would make aliens who have failed to pay child support inadmissible to the United States and ineligible to receive visas. Under the bill's provisions, the Federal Parent Locator Service in the Department of Health and Human Services would be used to check the status of aliens. S. 1609 also would authorize federal immigration officers to serve legal documents on aliens who have failed to pay child support, but only at the request of the state or local authorities attempting to enforce the child support order.

Implementing S. 1609 would increase costs to the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of State, and the Department of Health and Human Services to determine whether aliens have made necessary child support payments. Based on information from these agencies, we do not expect costs to be significant because the database necessary to satisfy the bill's requirements already exists. In addition, CBO estimates that any costs to federal immigration agencies to serve legal documents as authorized by S. 1609 would not be significant because of the relatively small number of requests expected from state or local authorities.

Enacting S. 1609 also could affect the number of visa applications and thus the amount of fees collected by the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) and the Department of State to issue such documents. The BCIS spends these fees (without appropriation action) mostly in the year the fees are collected, so enacting S. 1609 would result in a negligible net impact on BCIS spending. Fees collected by the Department of State are deposited in the Treasury as a revenue, but we do not expect any changes in revenue

to be significant because of the small number of visa applicants likely to be affected by the provisions of S. 1609.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Mark Grabowicz. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.